12th March 1954]

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" If the question whether an area is a chronic scarcity area is decided on the basis of the total rainfall in a year, will the Government be pleased to ascertain the total rainfall in the last five years in the Chingleput district and compare it with the rainfall of the areas classified as chronic scarcity areas by the Madras Government? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" I know that the average rainfall in Chingleput is much more than the average rainfall in Salem."

SRI S. SWAYAMPRAKASAM :—" The Hon. Minister for Food said that Tanjore is the richest district in South India. Is it not a fact that Sengipatti was declared a famine area last year? The area is almost entirely rain-fed. Are there not parts of Tanjore district which could be classified as scarcity areas and what is the use of saying that Tanjore is the richest district? Will the Government be pleased to clas ify Sengipatti as a scarcity area? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" We have to take a general view of the area concerned. We cannot go into individual pockets and find out whether they are chronically famine-stricken.

" Questions 87 and 88 may be taken together, as they relate to the same subject."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Yes."

Increase in the price of rice in Malabar.

* 87 Q.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have again raised the price of rice sold in ration shops in Malabar by 2 pies per seer since 14th February 1954;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Government have decided to send boiled rice to Malabar instead of raw rice; and

(d) the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (a) The answer is in the negative.

" (b) Does not arise.

" (c) & (d) The Government have not taken any such decision. But as it is known that the people of Malabar prefer par-boiled rice to raw rice, the Government are trying their best to procure and supply as much par-boiled rice as possible."